Editorial

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When I took over the editorship of *International Politics* in 2004, I was very much hoping that it would hold its course and move forward gently. In fact, the year turned out to be a most exciting one as the journal gained access to an ever wider audience. In the first three issues alone, we published 20 main articles on a wide variety of topics, ranging from the transatlantic crisis and the Bush Doctrine, through to International Law, the breakdown at Cancun, and the role of the Internet in international politics. The fourth volume for 2004 was, of course, a Special Issue edited by Andreas Hasenclever and Wolfgang Wagner. This brought together eight scholars from the United States, Germany and the UK who looked at the issue of the Democratic Peace. The year 2005 promises to be just as exciting. This first issue, we hope, is a good marker, with articles dealing, respectively, with American neo-conservatism, Just War, and the War on Terror — to which we invite reasoned responses. We are also publishing a major, and long-awaited, statement by a key figure in the field of IR who argues, controversially, that globalization theory has reached the end of the road. This ‘hazy spatial metaphor’ according to Justin Rosenberg may have been the Zeitgeist of the 1990s. Now its moment has passed however, and we have to look for altogether more suggestive methodologies to help us make sense of the modern condition. We have asked Linda Weiss, Jan Art Scholte, Andrew Gamble, Alex Callinicos and George Lawson to respond. Other debates are also in the offing, including two detailed pieces empirically contesting Huntington’s recently reinvigorated notion of a ‘Clash of Civilizations’, a discussion involving Hendrik Spruyt, Roland Axtman and John Agnew on Benno Teschke’s landmark study on the meaning of Westphalia, a re-evaluation of Russian foreign policy from Yeltsin to Putin, and, inevitably, reflections on the meaning of Iraq. There will be no Special Issue for 2005. However, I am pleased to announce that Chris Reus-Smit of the Australian National University and Ian Clark of Aberystwyth will be bringing out a Special Issue in late 2006 addressing the central problem of ‘Legitimacy and World Order’. Thanks to them; thanks to all our authors; and thanks too to my other editors — Fiona Stephen, Chris Reus-Smit, G. John Ikenberry and Walter Carlsnaes. Without them, the project would not have even taken off. I hope they think it has been worthwhile being present at the re-creation.

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